



Morning Highlights

July 27, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-42
Time: 11:20 am

Contact:
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

NEW WILDLAND FIRES

Five new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Sunday:

- The lightning-caused **Bluff Creek Fire** was reported by helicopter personnel working on a nearby incident. The 25 acre fire is burning in the Upper Yukon Zone in mixed spruce and tundra and is 90% active. It is in a Modified management area and currently in monitor status.
- The lightning caused **Jagged Ridge Fire** in the Upper Yukon Zone was reported by detection aircraft. The .5 acre fire is smoldering and creeping in mixed spruce and hardwoods. The fire is in a Limited management area and is currently in monitor status.
- The **Woodtruck Fire** in the Fairbanks Area was reported by a local resident. Two forestry engines responded to the incident involving a wood truck fully engulfed in flames. The .1 acre fire is in a Modified management area and is in monitor status.
- The **Leaf Lake Fire** in the Anchorage/MatSu Area was reported by a Palmer resident to 911. The abandoned campfire spread into the wildlands in the Jim Creek area. Two helitack personnel responded and remained overnight to suppress the .3 acre fire with pumps and hose.
- The **McHugh Fire** in the Anchorage/MatSu Area was reported by a local resident. One forestry engine assisted the Anchorage Fire Department in suppressing the .5 fire burning on a hillside. The fire was human caused and declared out on Sunday.

GENERAL FIRE SUMMARY

The Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) reports that so far this year 454 fires have burned **1,539,332.7** acres. Thirteen fires are staffed and 68 fires are active across Alaska. (This time last year, 332 fires had burned 79,521.4 acres.)

EXISTING STAFFED FIRES

The **Wood River 1 Fire**, about 27 miles south of Fairbanks, grew from 61,200 acres to 72,000 Sunday. Burnout operations around structures remained on hold due to a light rain. Aerial burn operations were conducted around the Blair Lakes military facilities. Twelve personnel remain working on the incident.

The **Railbelt Complex** grew more than 5,000 acres Sunday to 290,900 total acres. There are 215 fire personnel on the complex, which includes the **Minto Flats South Fire**, the **Lunch Lake Fire**, and the un-staffed **June Creek Fire**, which is unstaffed. Crews continue to protect structures, Native Allotments, and timber values along the

Tanana River, as well as the Arctic Wolf drill rig site. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) remains in place over the **Minto Lakes South and Lunch Lake Fires**. Pilots are asked to check NOTAMS for information. Fire activity within the Wood River 1 Fire and the Railbelt Complex is expected to continue into next week, and smoke will continue to drift into Fairbanks and interior communities.

The **Little Black One Fire** was more accurately mapped and is now 187,680 acres. There are 56 personnel staffing the fire for Native Allotment protection, including the Midnight Sun Hotshots and the Venetie #2 Crew.

The **Zitziana Fire** remained at 112,534 acres. Crews and smokejumpers will continue cabin protection measures and protective burnouts at Wien, West Twin, Blind Luck Lake, and Wilderness Lakes.

RED FLAG WARNINGS

Red Flag warnings are in place for portions of Alaska through Tuesday evening, with high winds and relative humidity values dipping below 30% as the primary concern. Conditions are expected to remain hot and dry into next week. Isolated thunderstorms are expected across a portion of northern interior.

Specific information about the Red Flag Warnings and weather can be found at:

<http://afshome/predsvcs/weather.php>

FIRE INFORMATION PHONE NUMBERS

For updated information about the **Wood River 1 Fire**, near Fairbanks, call **907-388-7526**.

For updated information about the **Railbelt Complex fires** which includes the Minto Flats South Fire, Lunch Lake Fire and the June Creek Fire, call the Fire Information Office at **907-378-3843**. The Incident Command Post is located at the Nenana Airport. Additional information about the fire is being posted at: www.inciweb.org.

For updated information about the Shanta Creek Fire, contact the Kenai Refuge at **907-262-7021** or the Alaska Division of Forestry at **907-260-4262**. Fire information is posted at www.inciweb.org and <http://kenai.fws.gov>. Email can be addressed to r7shanta@fws.gov.

For updated information about the Chakina Fire, call the Chakina Fire Information Office at **907-529-0511** or the National Park Service Office in Anchorage at **907-644-3414**. Email for the Chakina Fire may be sent to: ChakinaFireInfo@gmail.com. Fire information is also posted at www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm

News releases, the Daily Situation Report, and additional information about these and other fires in Alaska, including maps, are posted or available at:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov>

STAFFED FIRE SUMMARY

Taken from the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Daily Situation Report

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Railbelt Complex	NW of Nenana	290,900 acres	Type 3 Incident Mgt. Team
			Chena Hotshots
			Fairbanks #2 Type 2 crew
			Fairbanks #3 Type 2 crew
			Delta #2
			USFS Interagency Type 2
			Upper Tanana #5 Type 2
			Yukon T2IA Crew
			Delta #2
			USFS InteragencyType2 IA
<i>Fires in Complex</i>			
Minto Flats South	12 mi. W of Nenana	277,934 acres	215 personnel in Complex
Lunch Lake	20 mi. NW of Nenana	12,802 acres	
June Creek	21 mi. NW of Healy	164 acres	
Other Fires			
Wood River 1	27 mi. S of Fairbanks	72,000 acres	12 personnel
Sheenjek	46 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	46,130 acres	20 personnel
			Ft. Yukon #3 Type 2 crew
Rock Slough	50 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	27,500 acres	111 personnel
			Beaver/Stevens Village Type 2 crew
			Allakaket #2 Type 2 crew
			North Star Type 2 crew
			St. Michaels Type 2 crew
Little Black One	18 mi. NE of Circle	187,680 acres	56 personnel
			Venetie #2 Type 2 crew
			Midnight Sun Hotshots
Little Mud	94 mi. E of Galena	22,438.4 acres	4 personnel
Bear Creek	58 mi. W of Healy	49,858.9 acres	4 personnel
Zitziana	53 mi. W of Anderson	112,534.7 acres	48 personnel
Stevens Creek 1	17 mi. SW of Rampart	27,702 acres	5 personnel

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Shanta Creek	Off Funny River Road Kenai	13,221 acres	2 personnel
Big Creek	60 mi. SW of Ft. Yukon	13,347.6 acres	4 personnel
Chakina	13 mi. S of McCarthy	35,000 acres	69 personnel
			Pioneer Peak Hotshots
			Augusta Hotshots
Leaf Lake	Jim Creek Area, Palmer	.3 acres	2 helitack personnel

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at:
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

To learn about protecting yourself from smoke, visit:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

For daily fire information, please visit:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and for a map of fire locations,
 click on "Fire Information" at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info):
 (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
 Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

Today's AICC Morning Highlights are compiled by Mike McMillan and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).